

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /095 W

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R 191018Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7741

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION UN

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRUSSELS 8090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PINS, EEC, XM, BE

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: EC-9 AND BELGIAN VIEWS ON SITUATION IN  
URUGUAY, ARGENTINA, CHILE, BRAZIL

REF: A. STATE 194158; B. MONTEVIDEO 2899; C. THE HAGUE 3606;

D. STATE 161889

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1. SUMMARY: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID

QUESTION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY WAS RAISED AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SESSION IN MAY. EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS, AT THEIR JULY 1-2 MEETING, DECIDED IN FAVOR OF JOINT EC-9 APPROACH TO URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS BUT PUT IT OFF INDEFINITELY FOLLOWING OUSTER OF PRESIDENT BORDABERRY. BELGIAN SAID EUROPEANS ARE NOT IMPRESSED WITH CRITICISM OF THEIR DOUBLE STANDARD RE HUMAN RIGHTS, HOLDING THAT MORE SHOULD BE EXPECTED OF "MORE CIVILIZED COUNTRIES". END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR PANIS, FOREIGN MINISTER'S DIRECTOR FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS HAS BROUGHT US UP TO DATE ON BELGIAN AND EC-9 DEVELOPMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY IN URUGUAY, ARGENTINA, CHILEA AND BRAZIL. KEY POINTS ARE SET FORTH IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY (REFTEL B). AT THEIR JUNE MEETING, EC-9 LATIN AMERICAN EXPERTS RECOMMENDED TO POLITICAL DIRECTORS THAT EC-9 APPROACH URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT ON QUESTION OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. AMBASSADOR PANIS SAID THAT EXPERTS' AIM WAS TO AVOID THROWING URUGUAYAN ISSUE INTO UNITED NATIONS FORUM WHERE THERE WOULD BE MUCH "VERBAL THEATER" AND WHERE CUBA OR ANOTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY WOULD TAKE CONTROL OF ISSUE AND POSSIBLY FORCE EC-9 TO SUPPORT AN UNBALANCED RESOLUTION. EXPERTS RECOMMENDED THAT EC-9 MAKE "DISCREET" APPROACH TO URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD POINT OUT DANGERS OF INJECTING ISSUE INTO UNGA, APPEAL TO URUGUAY'S "LONG TRADITION OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS", RECOGNIZE THAT URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT IS MAKING AN EFFORT IN IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, AND, FINALLY, URGE THEM TO KEEP IT UP SO THAT EC-9 CAN ARGUE THAT "THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER" AND BE PREPARED TO HEAD OFF ATTEMPTS TO RAISE ISSUE IN UNGA.

4. EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS APPROVED EXPERTS RECOMMENDATION AT JULY 1-2 MEETING. SUBSEQUENT OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT BORDABERRY OCCASIONED "INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT" OF JOINT APPROACH TO URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT. EC-9 AMBASSADORS IN MONTEVIDEO HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MEET

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AND ANALYZE INTENTIONS AND PERFORMANCE OF NEW GOVERNMENT AND THEN MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BACK TO INDIVIDUAL CAPITALS ON HOW EC-9 SHOULD NOW PROCEED. HE SAID EC CAPITALS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY ABIDE BY A RECOMMENDATION OF NO ACTION SHOULD THAT BE THE CASE. AS TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (REFTEL B), PANIS SAID SUBJECT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CHILE AND URUGUAY WAS RAISED DURING PARLIAMENT'S QUESTION PERIOD (MAY 14).

HE SAID THAT COMMISSIONER REPLIED THAT EC "DEPLORED"  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN URUGUAY.

5. CHILE VS. BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY. PANIS  
SAID EC-9 EXPERTS AND BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWED  
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE DIFFERENTLY THAN THAT  
IN BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, AND URUGUAY. IN CHILE, WITH THE  
PASSAGE OF CONSIDERABLE TIME AFTER OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE,  
CONTINUED VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND USE OF TORTURE  
INDICATES THAT SUCH METHODS ARE "CLEARLY PART OF THE  
SYSTEM" AS OPPOSED TO A TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT IN THE FACE  
OF A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE  
SAID EC-9 HAD ALMOST LOST HOPE OF GETTING UN HUMAN RIGHT  
COMMISSION PERMISSION TO VISIT CHILE BECAUSE OF CHILEAN  
"STALLING" AND CYNICAL USE OF "PROCEDURAL TRICKS".  
HE WARNED THAT IF THE COMMISSION VISIT CANNOT BE ARRANGED,  
THE ISSUE WOULD BE THROWN INTO UNGA WHERE EASTERN  
EUROPEANS AND NON-ALIGNEDS WOULD HAVE A FIELD DAY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRUSSELS 8090

6. UNLIKE SITUATION IN CHILE, PANIS SAID, EC-9 EXPERTS BELIEVE VIDELA GOVERNMENT IN ARGENTINA IS COMMITTED TO RULE OF LAW AND THAT CURRENT DEVIATIONS THEREFROM ARE EITHER AN AD HOC REACTION OF GOVERNMENT TO CLEAR THREAT TO ITS AUTHORITY OR ARE A PROBLEM OF GENERAL VIDELA'S CONTROL OVER UNRULY SUBORDINATES. PANIS SAID EC-9 AMBASSADORS IN BUENOS AIRES HAAVE INTERVENED INDIVIDUALLY AND MADE DEMARCHES TO GOA AND HAVE BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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GIVEN ASSURANCES BY GOVERNMENT THAT POLICY IS TO RESPECT INTERNATIONAL NORMS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. PANIS ADDED THAT EC-9 MIGHT AT SOME FUTURE DATE "IF NECESSARY" DECIDE TO APPROACH COLLECTIVELY ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND "SAY JOINTLY WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING INDIVIDUALLY". EC-9 VIEWED BRAZILIAN SITUATION ALSO AS DIFFERENT FROM CHILEAN IN THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL HAD SHOWED EVIDENCE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WERE NOT PART OF THE SYSTEM AND THAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO END ABUSES IN BRAZIL. PANIS CITED AS EXAMPLE GEISEL'S SACKING OF II ARMY COMMANDER.

7. DOUBLE STANDARD? PANIS SAID EC-9 EXPERTS AND BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD LITTLE RESPECT FOR CRITICISM. LEVELLED AT EUROPEANS FOR APPLYING DOUBLE STANDARD AS REGARDS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES. USING AN ARGUMENT LAST HEARD IN DISCUSSION OF POST-FRANCO SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE (EC AND NATO SUBDIVISIONS), PANIS SAID THAT EUROPEANS EXPECT HIGHER STANDARD OF CONDUCT FROM THE "MORE CIVILIZED COUNTRIES" WHICH SHARE "SAME VALUE SYSTEM" (LIKE SPAIN, CHILE, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, BRAZIL) THAN THEY DO FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND LOCAL TYRANTS OF THE AMIN STRIPE. HE QUOTED FROM LECTURE DELIVERED TO DEPARTING CHILEAN AMBASSADOR, GENERAL NUNO, BY FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (DAVIGNON): "ILLICIT SEXUAL RELATIONS ARE SINFUL BUT ILLICIT SEXUAL RELATIONS BY A PRIEST ARE MORE SO." RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, HUMAN RIGHTS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Page Count:** 5  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 194158, 76 MONTEVIDEO 2899, 76 THE HAGUE 3606, 76 STATE 161889  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS: EC-9 AND BELGIAN VIEWS ON SITUATION IN URUGUAY, ARGENTINA, CHILE, BRAZIL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SHUM, PINS, XM, BE, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006